

## Notes and Observations

AN EXTREME ABERRATION OF THE SMALL TORTOISESHELL AGLAIS URTICAE L. — Though regrettably very late in reporting this due to other work, I thought it worth recording due to its' extreme nature. On Monday 16 July 1984, in Kingspark Wood, W. Sussex, Mr. G. C. Haines and I observed a black butterfly flying along the stony ride ahead of us. Neither of us could imagine what it was and due to its' habit of flying for a few yards before settling very briefly for a second or two, repeated three or four times, it was a little while before I was able to get close enough to identify it. It turned out to be an extreme aberration of *Aglais urticae* L. in which virtually the whole upper surface was a sooty black. Even the blue crescent and wavy line border was missing and from a very brief observation of only a couple of seconds, it appeared that there was only a small amount of red marking at the costal margin, curiously where the ochreous markings occur on normal specimens. In this it seems to have been an even more extreme version of *ab. semiichnusoides* Pronin. as indicated under Fig. I, Plate 18, of *Aberrations of British Butterflies* by A. D. A. Russworm, (Classey 1978).

Unfortunately, I was unable to obtain a photograph as, tired of my attention, it shot up and over the trees and was not seen again, despite visits over the next two days — S. L. MEREDITH, 5 Rutlish Road, Merton Park, London SW19 3AL.

WHITE-SPOTTED PUG (EUPITHECIA TRIPUNCTARIA H.S.) (LEP.: GEOMETRIDAE) IN CARDIGANSHIRE — A single female of this species was caught in the Rothamsted Insect Survey light trap at the N.C.C. reserve at Tregaron, Cardiganshire (now part of Dyfed) (Site No. 331, O. S. Grid Ref. SN 618) on the night of 27/28-vi-1986. The identity of the specimen was confirmed by examination of the genitalia. So far as I am aware this species has not previously been recorded from Cardiganshire.

Thanks are extended to I. J. L. Tillotson for operating the trap at Tregaron and for identifying most of its' catches. ADRIAN, M. RILEY, Dept. Entomology, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 2JQ.

LYMANTRIA MONACHA L. (LEP.: LYMANTRIIDAE) IN LONDON — On 6th August 1986 a male example of *L. monacha* (the black arches) was found inside a well-lit building in the Elephant and Castle area of London. Although the moth occurs sporadically in the Home Counties, I believe this may be the first record for London. R. McCORMICK, 125 Brocks Drive, North Cheam, Surrey.